

SC020193

The SENAD Group Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The provision is an independent day and residential school for up to 25 children and young people, aged eight to 19 years, who have severe learning disabilities, autistic spectrum condition and associated challenging behaviour. The registered manager has recently resigned his post and a new manager has been appointed.

Inspection date: 14 August 2018

This monitoring visit

This children's home was judged inadequate at a full inspection on 13 June 2018. This was the second inadequate judgement, and similar concerns were identified. The two compliance notices issued at the inspection in April were not met. Subsequently, these compliance notices were re-issued, and a further compliance notice was issued. The compliance notices are about staffing levels, monitoring and review processes and the ability of staff and managers to keep children safe. A restriction notice was also issued on this occasion.

This unannounced monitoring visit was undertaken to consider the progress made in relation to the compliance notices and restriction notice. The managers and staff have demonstrated that they are making good progress towards meeting the compliance notices and for the restriction notice to be lifted. One requirement was also set at the last full inspection. There was not enough evidence gathered at this monitoring visit to ascertain whether the requirement was met. Therefore, this requirement will be considered at the next full inspection.

A qualified manager has been appointed and has recently commenced employment. She is well supported by senior leaders and will be mentored by registered managers from outstanding or good services within the group. Staff are positive about her style of management and said that they feel listened to. Staff have appreciated her spending time with them and the children, getting to know them.

Monitoring and review systems have much improved. New systems have been introduced that enable managers to easily track patterns and trends. This means that concerns are quickly identified, which helps to keep children safe. For example, managers regularly visit the houses and monitor staff allocation and practice. Staff are encouraged to reflect on their practice to help improve the children's experience.

Staff have received additional training to ensure that they can identify risk and act appropriately to reduce or eliminate the risk. Staff are now better able to identify and manage safeguarding concerns to keep children safe.

Staffing levels appear to meet the assessed needs of children. Some children have now left the service, which has resulted in improved staffing levels. Extra staff are now deployed to give children opportunities to do activities in the local and wider community. An activity coordinator has been employed. This has improved the level and quality of activities offered to children.

Risk assessments clearly state the staffing levels required to meet the assessed needs of the children. Placing authorities are being challenged about funding agreements where these are not currently appropriate.

Staff are very positive about the changes and the future of the home. They feel well supported and listened to. They are pleased to see the new manager spending time with them in the houses. Staff said that staffing levels have improved and so staff have more time now. They said shifts are a lot calmer. Staff morale has improved.

The service has started to develop a safeguarding ethos and culture to ensure that safeguarding children is everyone's priority. Daily safeguarding meetings take place to ensure that emerging safeguarding concerns are captured and dealt with quickly. The designated safeguarding leads have additional weekly meetings to review incidents. This ensures that nothing is missed and any omissions are rectified quickly.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/06/2018	Full	Inadequate
18/04/2018	Full	Inadequate
26/09/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/08/2017	Full	Inadequate

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— - understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; - use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— - ensure that staff— - provide personalised care that meets each child's needs, as recorded in the child's relevant plans, taking account of the child's background. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b)(2)(b)(iv))	17/09/2018

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC020193

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Registered provider: The SENAD Group Limited

Registered provider address: Senad Group Ltd, 1 St. Georges House, Vernon Gate, Derby DE1 1UQ

Responsible individual: Mark Flynn

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Joanne Vyas, social care regulatory inspector

Phil Morris, social care regulatory inspector

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